

50-1942

Birmingham, Ala. Age-Herald  
April 9, 1942

## NEGROES REQUEST HUDSON AREA PARK

A committee of Negroes representing Negro residents in Collegeville near the Hudson School section appeared before the Park and Recreation Board Wednesday with a request that a park and playground be obtained by the board for that section.

The request was referred to Roy Marshall, Park Board superintendent, to determine what suitable property was available in that section for a playground and park.

Marshall informed the board work was progressing satisfactorily on establishment of a museum of natural history in the base of the Vulcan foundation and stated the museum would be open to the public in about a week or 10 days.

James H. Dickson won the refreshment concession for the Summer at Ensley Swimming Pool on a low bid of \$100 minimum rental and 8 per cent of the gross proceeds in excess of \$1,200.

## CITY BUYS LAND

## FOR A NEGRO PARK

The City of Birmingham yesterday passed a resolution to purchase approximately eight acres of land extending from 27th-av and 31st-st. n. to 29th-av and 31st-st. n. to be used as a Negro park. The property is to be purchased from the Caldwell Real Estate and Improvement Co. for \$3400.

## First Of Two Parks

## For Negroes To Be Dedicated

Sunday afternoon, May 31st, marks the opening of the first Negro park, given by the city to our group. This park will be known as "Elsberry Memorial Park" in honor of Julius Elsberry, the first Birmingham Negro to die in the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Mr. William McAlister, president of the State Federation of Colored Civic Leagues, and Mr. Rufus Jones, president of the South Elyton Civic League, urge all civic leagues and citizens in and around the Birmingham district to be present at this dedication service.

The park is located on 6th Ave. and 5th Street South.

# City Purchases Wooded Area For Negro Play Park

A five-acre wooded area was yesterday acquired by the City of Anderson for use as a Negro park and playground, it was announced last night by Dr. Dewitt Kay, alderman of Ward Five, who took a leading part in the negotiations.

This area is located just off Stephens and Daniels Streets, approximately 200 yards across an open field from the Joseph Newton Brown playground for white people. The new park area is also part of the Joseph Newton Brown estate and was leased to the city free of charge by Miss Varina Brown.

Within the next ten days, a crew of city workmen will start clearing out underbrush and improving the tract. Tables, benches, swings, etc., will be built and drinking fountains installed.

Birmingham, Ala. News  
May 12, 1942

## City Heads Postpone Action On Beco Plea For Shuttle Bus Line

## Proposed Route Would Serve Airport Area; Park Property Bought

A proposed "shuttle" bus line, extending from Second Avenue and 15th Street, North, to Burgin Avenue on East Lake Boulevard to serve the airport area, will be acted upon at an adjourned City Commission meeting Wednesday, it was decided at the regular commission meeting Tuesday.

The Birmingham Electric Company has asked for a 30-year franchise which brought objection from City Commissioner Connor who was willing to grant the franchise to 1953 with a 30-day cancellation clause included.

C. E. Oakes, Beco president, said he would have to study this counter-proposal before agreeing to it. Purchase of an eight-acre park property, now leased by the city in Collegeville as a Negro park,

ALABAMA

was approved by the city commission at a price of \$3,200. The property was bought from the Caldwell Real Estate & Improvement Company.

W. J. Christian was employed by the city to make the annual audit including the Industrial Water Works for the current fiscal year which ends Aug. 31.

The commission voted to repeal a sub-section of the city dairy code which requires dairies to have their names blown into the bottles. Now the name on the milk cap is sufficient.

Purchase was made on low bid of 32 per cent discount of \$1,500 worth of light bulbs from Young & Vann Supply Company.

## Age-Herald

Birmingham, Ala.

## Negroes Dedicate Park On Southside In Honor Of War Dead

## Large Crowd Is Present At Ceremonies Paying Tribute To Fighting Men

Dedication ceremonies, led by Mayor W. Cooper Green, recently opened Birmingham's first memorial park for Negroes, honoring Negro war dead of the city.

Birmingham's first Negro park is located at Avenue F and Sixth Street, and a large Negro audience was present for the dedication ceremonies.

Mayor Green said plans for a community house, swimming pool and additional shrubbery for the park are being made. Memorial Park, "a step in the right direction," was made possible by the united effort of Park Board officials, commissioners, civic organizations and citizens, the mayor told his audience.

Other speakers at the ceremony were Commissioner James W. Morgan, Jim Downey and Miss Agnes Coughlin, of the Park and Recreation Board.

Parker High School Band and singers from Ullman School provided music for the program.

Collegeville Park, a second park for Negroes, has recently been opened in North Birmingham.

## Age-Herald

Birmingham, Ala.

## To Get Things Done

Last Sunday a week ago, Mayor Cooper Green addressed many of Birmingham's Negro citizens at the dedication of the Memorial Park for Negroes. The park, Mayor Green said, was not all that it should be, but he pointed out that it was a step in the right direction. It is that.

Editor Robert Durr, of *The Weekly Review*, in an article later that week wrote some fine things about Mayor Green. He emphasized strongly what the mayor had to say about "how to get things done."

"Mr. Green," the article commented, "admonished his audience to 'be humble' and they would get anything they wanted."

The editor continued: "I knew Mayor Green was just giving some good old corn bread advice, for I knew that it's just good business to be nice, respectful and that this has nothing to do with being servile. I knew that he was saying it is important that all people be as kind as possible as a matter of policy. I knew that all great people are humble and respectful..."

Realization of this is very important. Its importance, indeed, is so great that it is difficult even to suggest the basic hope which lies in a spirit of humbleness. Yes, all great men are humble, and, in a sense, all truly humble men are great.

By being humble, all men can achieve what they desire. It is a false assumption that minorities must be fiercely belligerent. To be humble itself is not enough, of course. Work is necessary. What seems, perhaps, to be unending effort is required, but such effort will be strengthened, multiplied, if it is implemented by the proper spirit. And, as Editor Durr says, humbleness is not to be confused with servility. The two are worlds apart.

Recently, at the Nieman Institute on War Problems, at Harvard University, Mark Etheridge, of *The Louisville Courier-Journal*, and a member of the president's Committee on Fair Employment Practices, said that industrial race relations were better in Birmingham than in any other city in the country. This statement was a

tribute to the humbleness of many men here, white and Negro, men who long have worked for understanding, who have worked without trying to blast, without trying to arouse antagonism, hatred, discontent, yet stimulated by a burning desire for justice, for fair play.

With the understanding which is Mayor Green's, and the understanding of many Negroes, as voiced by the editor of *The Weekly Review*, much can be held almost to be certain for Birmingham.

Our Negroes need so much. They need more recreational facilities.

They will get them.

We have no two sides, one for and one against. We need fear nothing if bitterness and misunderstanding are averted, if understanding, toleration and good will are cultivated.

Humbleness is a requisite for genuine achievement. That there is so much understanding among us is very encouraging and greatly promising.

## Age-Herald

Birmingham, Ala.

## Another Park

Sunday afternoon another Negro park was dedicated. It is, really, just a tract of land. It is undeveloped. But in this matter we have begun to move. It was not for the war, doubtless we would be moving somewhat more rapidly. It is to be hoped that something can be done to develop the Negro parks we are beginning. It should not take much money or effort to provide some swings, slides and the like. They need not be made of iron. Wooden supports for swings can be erected cheaply, and ropes instead of chains support the swings. Sandpiles could be provided cheaply. Let us not fail to do everything we can to improve these parks, even on a temporary basis, if necessary.



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*Birmingham, Ala. News*

June 14, 1942

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*Age-Herald*

Birmingham, Ala.

## NEW NEGRO PARK DEDICATED HERE

### Eight-Acre Wooded Tract In North Birmingham To Be Developed

Birmingham's second municipally owned Negro park was dedicated Sunday afternoon by Mayor Cooper Green and James A. Downey, president of the Park and Recreation Board, to the premise "a happy people are a better people."

Located at Collegeville, in North Birmingham, the park contains eight acres, wooded, still undeveloped. The first municipally owned Negro park was dedicated several weeks ago at Avenue F and Fourth Street. Heretofore the city has leased park ground for Negroes.

Keynote was sounded by Mayor Green, who said that "Birmingham is following a long-term policy, based on the knowledge that the furthering of recreation through parks will result in a healthier, happier people."

He also cited reports that safety is promoted, crime and delinquency reduced when parks are opened.

He pictured the new park, when completed, as not only a playground for children but also an athletic field for their older brothers and sisters and a picnic and barbecue spot for families and organizations.

Among those introduced were W. L. McAlpin, Negro, who has worked for years for an improved Negro playground and park plan.

Park Board members introduced, in addition to Downey and Mayor Green, were Charles L. Bailey, Charles L. Harris and Mrs. Charles J. Sharp.

Music was provided by the Parker Negro High School Band; community singing was led by Issadelle Miles, Negro song leader, and brief talks were made by Negro park and civic leaders including the Rev. D. A. Pettus, Calvin Hunter, Sam Mitchell, A. L. Welch, Dr. R. B. Maclin and Ben Mahaly. The park was accepted in behalf of Negro children by little Ernest Hopkins.

## Would Name Park For Ellsberry

The entire Birmingham press has been asked by Emory O. Jackson, *WORLD* editor, to join in the campaign to have Memorial Park, first city-owned Negro park, renamed for Julius Ellsberry, the first Birmingham citizen to be killed in World War II.

In a five-page letter to the City Commission Thursday, Jackson presented the case for renaming the park in honor of Ellsberry, rejecting the premise upon which he understood the park came about its name.

Two additional arguments for renaming the park to honor the Pearl Harbor victim-hero were cited in Jackson's letter to editors of the daily press soliciting their cooperation. The letter said "renaming the park (in honor of Ellsberry) would be a stimulative to better war morale among our, or my people" and that "new injection of racial poison into public discussion by men in high politics and in public life makes such even more necessary."

*Age-Herald*

Birmingham, Ala.

## Court Order Blocks Reopening Of Park As Negro Playground

The man who owns Yarbrough Park, north of Lewisburg, and recently appeared as a state witness in an injunction action which permanently restrained several Negroes from operating it as a Negro resort center, Saturday was enjoined against operating the park himself for Negroes.

Circuit Judge George Lewis Bailes granted a petition for a temporary injunction, filed by Assistant Solicitor Burgin Hawkins, restraining E. C. Tillman from reopening the park. Tillman, according to Hawkins, had announced in posters and dodgers that the park would have a "grand reopening" Sunday with a number of special entertainment features scheduled.

Judge Bailes granted the petition for a temporary injunction after a brief hearing Saturday morning and the restraining order will remain in effect indefinitely unless Tillman seeks to have it lifted.

Following a court fight, Circuit Judge E. M. Crenshaw granted a permanent injunction July 21 prohibiting Delaware Williams, J. B. Welch and Willie Kidd from further operation of the park as a Negro re-

sort. The action followed protests from white residents in the neighborhood that the park was the scene of frequent disturbances.



# CONSTANT READER



*Two Parks One Too Many  
For Birmingham Negroes,  
Say Southern Bourbons  
N.Y., N.Y.  
By SENDER GARLIN*

**AUG 13 1942**

**BIRMINGHAM, Ala.**—More than 100,000 Negroes live and work in this strategic industrial city known as the "Pittsburgh of the South," but the men who rule the roost here have decided that one park is more than enough for the local Negro inhabitants.

The other day an injunction was issued by Judge E. M. Creel permanently restraining the operation of Yarbrough Park, one of the two local recreation centers for Negroes. The Southern jurist said he decided to issue the court order after making a tour of the premises.

The park was declared a "public nuisance" by assistant solicitor Burgin Hawkins. He said nearby residents had complained of "rowdiness" and "improper conduct" by patrons.

Deputy sheriffs employed as guards by park officials denied the charges and said that things have generally been orderly at the park. But their testimony was dismissed by assistant solicitor Hawkins as "biased."

Don't get the impression that this is a public park under the jurisdiction of the municipality. You'll find no such animal in Birmingham. The operators of the park are private individuals named Delaware Williams, Willie Kidd and J. B. Welch. Their attorney, Harry Markstein, Jr., charged that the complaint against the park was that it was a Negro park.

But whatever the ins and outs of the situation, the writs of certiorari, riparian rights, corpus delicti, bills of attainder and certificates of reasonable doubt—the fact remains that with the closing of Yarbrough Park only one other park for Negroes remains in Jefferson County, of which Birmingham is the county seat.

Is it surprising that the Negro workers of Birmingham resent this high-handed action? This resentment is what Ku-Klux minded gentlemen like Horace Wilkinson, sponsor of the "League for White Supremacy" describe as "arrogance" and "insolence."

Mr. Wilkinson and his crowd have always had "white supremacy" as their platform, even before the organization of a movement that bears this name. It has meant a system under which Negroes are abused, humiliated, jailed, flogged and lynched. Today the "traditional" attitudes toward the Negro has become a part of the counter-revolutionary conspiracy by Southern bourbons to defy the national government in carrying out federal laws aimed to bring about maximum production for the winning of the war.

This plot, which has the open approval of Gov. Frank M. Dixon of Alabama, is the beginning of a campaign to sabotage the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice (FEPC) and thus nullify Executive Order 8802, aimed against discrimination in all war industries and in government agencies.

Horace Wilkinson, a former political boss of Birmingham, who is making a dramatic bid for a return to power, is the author of the blueprint for fascism designed to guide the friends of Hitler in this country. It was presented in the form of a speech before the Kiwanis Club of Bessemer, Ala., recently.

This speech was nothing more nor less than a call to violence against the Negro people employed in defense industries, and in the armed forces. Wilkinson, acting as a front man for powerful reactionary industrial and farming interests, has issued his slogan of "white supremacy" as a method for sabotaging production, thus blocking the national war program.

**AUG 13 1942**

Wilkinson and his gang are spreading tales in Alabama and throughout the South about the "growing insolence" of the Negro people. They are vague on the details and most of the evidence is fictitious. But I am convinced of one thing: their bill of indictment could not possibly include this incident, described to me by an eyewitness:

A group of Negro draftees were bidding farewell to their loved ones: mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters and sweethearts. Awaiting buses to take them to camp, they gathered outside the Birmingham court house. A sheriff came to the window and shouted for them to "pipe down." The crowd was no noisier than any other group in similar circumstances would be, so the "law" sat on the ledge of a window and waited for "trouble." Getting impatient after a while he decided to create some of his own. As he sat on the ledge of the window he decided it would be a nice idea to put his feet on the shoulders of one of the Negro recruits. The lad shook them off. Whereupon the officer of the law, after abusing the boy, rushed into the jail, returned with a baseball bat and began pummeling the young Negro.

When the buses arrived, the victim of this brutal attack limped in and took his seat. Enroute to camp he must have reflected bitterly on this lesson in "Southern traditions."

It is presumably in the defense of these "traditions" that Horace Wilkinson and the interests for which he is a mouthpiece have launched their Second Front against the federal government and the war production program of this nation.

**Birmingham, Ala. News**  
August 9, 1942

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**Birmingham, Ala. News**  
June 29, 1942

## Area At Collegeville Is Dedicated As Park For Negro Residents

**Plot When Cleared  
Will Make Excellent  
Playground For Children**

That wholesome outdoor recreation contributes to healthy bodies and high morale and that "a happy people are a better people," was pointed out Sunday afternoon by Mayor Cooper Green in the dedication of Birmingham's second municipally-owned Negro park—a wooded area of eight acres—which, when development is completed, will offer an excellent playground for Negroes.

Participating in the dedicatory ceremonies was James A. Downey, president of the Park and Recreation Board.

The park is located at Collegeville, in North Birmingham, and is still undeveloped. The first municipally-owned Negro park was dedicated several weeks ago at Avenue F and Fourth Street. Heretofore, the city has leased park ground for Negroes.

Mayor Green pointed out that Birmingham is following a long-term policy based on the knowledge that the furthering of recreation through parks will result in a healthier and happier people.

He also cited reports that safety is promoted and crime and delinquency reduced when parks are opened and young people are provided with wholesome forms of recreation.

He pictured the new park, when completed, as not only a playground for children, but also an athletic field for their older brothers and sisters and a picnic and barbecue spot for families and organizations.

Among those introduced were W. L. McAlpin, Negro, who worked for years for an improved Negro playground and park plan.

Park Board members introduced in addition to Downey and Mayor Green, were Charles L. Bailey, Charles L. Harris and Mrs. Charles J. Sharp.

Music was provided by the Parker Negro High School band; community singing was led by Issabelle Miles, Negro song leader, and brief talks were made by Negro park and civic leaders, including the Rev. D. A. Pettus, Calvin Hunter, Sam Mitchell, L. Welch, Dr. R. M. MacLin and Ben Mahaly. The park was accepted in behalf of the Negro children by Ernest Hopkins.

**Birmingham, Ala. News**  
July 11, 1942

## Injunction Is Issued Against Negro Park

Preliminary injunction restraining the operations of Yarbrough Park, a Negro amusement park located off the Newcastle Road, north of Lewisburg, and about two miles north of Ketona, was in the hands of the sheriff for service Saturday.

It was granted by Judge J. Russell McElroy late Friday.

The petition was filed in the name of the state of Alabama on relation of E. E. McAdory solicitor, against E. O. Tillman, Delaware Williams, J. B. Welch, and Willie Kidd.

The complaint alleges that the land is owned by E. O. Tillman and is operated by the other defendants under a lease.

It is charged in the complaint that the park is located in a thickly populated white residential community. The bill charges that automobiles stop at all hours of the

night, and that the Negroes are noisy. It further charges that the park has no license to sell beer or liquor, but that consumption of these occurs at the park and Negroes become intoxicated, creating a nuisance. No date for a hearing had been set Saturday.



# Here's How Freedmen's Treats Student Nurses

SEP 26 1942

WASHINGTON

Here are conditions under which Freedmen's Hospital nurse trainees operate:

Student nurses are given no recreation facilities and requests for entertainment are refused; they are not permitted to attend dances at Howard University, although tuition fee provides for participation in extra-curricular activities at Howard.

Students work 48 hours weekly due to shortage of graduate nurses, but they frequently work 56 and 60 hours weekly. They are given no days off on week ends and usually two days of the week end they have to do twilight duty from 2:30 until 11 o'clock.

## Overtime Without Credit

If a student fails to report at 6:30 a.m. in full uniform daily, she is punished by being forced to work one or two hours overtime for which no credit is given.

When graduate nurses report ill at midnight a student having worked 8 hours of the day is called to the hospital to relieve the ill graduate. This time is not applied to the student's credit.

In October, 1940, students sent a petition to Miss Reba Speaks requesting week end privileges and late leave permission until 12:30 a.m. and that they be called for 11 o'clock duty not more than two week ends during the month.

## SEP 26 1942 Miss Speaks Writes Parents

In response to this letter Miss Speaks held a meeting with the class and, after discussion of the facts contained in the petition, informed the students that she had written each of their parents, informing them that they had lost sight of the fact that they were there for the purpose of studying nurse training.

In the fall of 1941, twenty-five grievances of the student body were presented to Dr. T. Edward Jones, former surgeon-in-chief, and Miss Speaks, which in turn were referred to the student council which is composed of more members of the faculty than the student body.

The students never heard any more from the petition and were given no consideration.

## Other Grievances Cited

SEP 26 1942

In May, 1942, a candidate for June graduation was expelled for a minor infraction. In June, 1942, a freshman student was suspended for six months for returning two days late from her vacation.

In July, 1942, thirteen freshmen students were suspended for failing in one subject. Although the authorities knew of the grades in May, the students were not informed of their status until July after they had spent train fare going to and coming from their homes.

A check of conditions at other local hospitals revealed a different situation.

## Other Hospitals Compared

At Providence Hospital the entire program is planned by the student nurses with assistance of the nurse advisor. They have badminton, parties and dances, croquet, card tables, cards, bingo, motion pictures, radiophonograph, a gift of the alumni association.

Tea sets, a library for fiction as well as a professional one, ping pong, roller skating, late leave once a month; study period three nights a week; a sodality club and a glee club at Catholic University.

SEP 26 1942

At St. Elizabeth Hospital, the AFRO was told that they had young women at the institution and not children, therefore, they planned their own social and recreational program with the assistance of a nurse advisor.

The young women had to be trusted with more important matters than social affairs and it was up to them to think up and work out their own activities with the full knowledge that they were trusted, respected young women with grave responsibilities, the AFRO was told.

With this understanding, authorities said, they felt that the young women would plan well and wisely.



50-1942  
Tampa, Fla. Tribune  
January 7, 1942

## City To Condemn Land For Negro School Playground

The city's legal department was ordered by the board of alderman last night to condemn a tract of land between India and Constant streets and adjacent to the Meecham school for a Negro playground.

The action was on recommendation of the zoning commission, the board of public recreation, and the recreation committee of the board of aldermen, which asked that it be condemned "as a health and fire hazard."

The site consists of about two and a half acres, which the recreation board proposes to develop into a playground for use by the school during the day and as a community playground at night.

Tampa so far has no Negro playground with the exception of a few sand lots.

The following personal tax cuts were allowed:

Powell's, Inc., 406 E. Lafayette st., property valuation from \$400 to \$200 for 1937 to 1940, inclusive; Tampa Printing company, 125 S. Franklin st., from \$4000 to \$1500 for 1938, 1939 and 1940, also that the balance due the city on 1937 taxes be cancelled, and that penalties for 1937, 1938, 1939 and 1940 be cancelled; Cox's Sporting Goods, 1106 Tampa st., that penalties for 1940 be waived.

The board sent to the streets committee a request by the Atlantic Coast Line railroad that a street right-of-way west of the Howard Grain company's building on Cass st. be returned to the railroad. It was given by the railroad to the city for an extension of Garcia avenue and never used, and is now needed for an extension of the Howard company's building.

Tampa, Fla. Tribune  
June 20, 1942

## Mayor Says Offer Of Playground Site Will Go to Board

An offer by Ben Haimovitz of a site at Buffalo and 26th for a Negro play park is under consideration by the city recreation department, and will be sent to the board of aldermen as soon as possible, Mayor Chancey said yesterday.

It was made several weeks ago and Haimovitz wrote the city asking if it would be accepted.

Mayor said several additional lots were necessary if the site was to be of value as a playground, and an effort was under way to get them. This is the reason for the delay, the mayor said.

President Rosenthal wrote Haimovitz that the board would act on his offer as soon as it was received, but so far it is in the hands of the mayor.

Tampa, Fla. Tribune  
July 31, 1942

## SCHOOL BOARD OFFERED 12 LOTS BY HAIMOVITZ

## Would Be Used for Negro School Playground

Ben Haimovitz, who already has given a pond and an alligator to the city for a Negro playground, yesterday offered 12 more lots to the school board for use as a running field for Negro youngsters at Lomax school.

The city kicked Haimovitz offer around for several weeks before finally accepting his gift, and even then Recreation Supervisor Nash Higgins

## FLORIDA

thought a garbage dump would be a better site.

### School Board Accepts

The school board didn't quibble. The offer was turned over to Tampa trustees for action, and it looks like the trustees will snap it up.

"The youngsters run all over the lots anyway," Haimovitz said yesterday, "so it won't be anything new to them, but at least the school board will have the right to fix the place up for a playground if it wants to. When Middleton is finished, the land can be used for the Negro children there, too."

Haimovitz said he was being so free with his land because he has too many lots already.

### Near Park Site

Lomax school is at 37th avenue and 26th street, one block from the site given to the city.

Principal objection to the playground site originally offered to the city was that the pond was inhabited by an alligator.

"The Negro boys who go swimming there told me they had the alligator trained," said Haimovitz. "There isn't any alligator on this other property I'm offering to the school, because there isn't any pond. But it's good land."



50-1942

Tampa, Fla. Tribune  
July 26, 1942

# HIGGINS FAVORS CHANGING SITE OF NEGRO PARK

## Says Haimovitz Land Is Not Practical

The lake on the Haimovitz park site never will make a safe swimming hole, and if the city administration wants to develop a recreation area for Negroes, it had better look to a site at Buffalo and 22nd, Nash Higgins, superintendent of recreation, said yesterday.

It was, of course a generous act of Ben Haimovitz, Belmont Heights lumber man, to give the city a site for a Negro park at Buffalo and 26th, Higgins said, but this site cannot be used until a good deal of money is spent on it.

### Would Become Polluted

The lake, which is large, is no more than a drainage hole, Higgins said, and with the lack of sanitary facilities in this big Negro section, is sure to be polluted.

"The state board of health never would let us use it for a swimming hole," he added. "I know Negro boys swim in it, but not with the encouragement of the recreation department."

"I don't see that we can do much with this park site until it is filled in, and that will take time. Then we can make a play area there."

Higgins said there was nothing to keep the city from turning to a 10-acre tract at Buffalo and 22nd, a quarter of a mile from the Haimovitz site, acquired by the city for a Negro playground many years ago but taken instead for a city dump.

### Bury Garbage On It

This site was used for a time as a sandlot baseball ground for Negroes, but the city took it away from them and used it to bury garbage. Most of this ground has been worked over by the garbage gangs, and it can be used for play again, Higgins said, if the city wants a Negro playground.

"My suggestion is that they turn to this site and put a few dollars into temporary facilities there," said Higgins.

Mayor Chancey asked the board of aldermen at budget time for money to carry out a program to improve recreation areas, including \$10,000 for Negroes, but all were crossed out by

the board.  
Memphis, Tenn. Commercial Appeal  
July 20, 1942

## NEGROES' PLAYGROUND IS PLANNED BY BOARD

### City Education Heads Purchase Land Near School

Purchase by the City Board of Education of a block of property immediately south of the Leath School for negroes at 427 Linden was announced yesterday by W. J. Prescott, president of the board.

Approximately 300 feet square, the property will be converted into a school playground, Mr. Prescott said. The additional ground was made necessary because of an enrolment of 1044 negro children last year, and present indications of an even greater student body in September, he explained.

Leath School was converted from a white to a negro school in 1940.

Last year the Board of Education purchased the old Carnes home at Linden and Wellington, a landmark in that section of town for many years, with the intention of constructing a playground there. The Carnes property was later sold to the City of Memphis for use as a negro clinic.

The present purchase was made south of Leath School instead of east toward the Carnes property—in order to leave room for the expansion of the clinic grounds, Mr. Prescott said.

Tampa, Fla. Tribune  
July 18, 1942

## Tampa's Offer for Negro Playground Sent to Aldermen

An offer by Ben Haimovitz, Belmont Heights lumber dealer, of a free site for a Negro park and swimming pool, long delayed in the city hall, reached the board of aldermen yesterday.

City Attorney McMullen sent it to the board of aldermen and asked immediate action because Haimovitz has obtained an option on nine additional lots for the park, which he must take up right away if the city is to get them. In a letter to McMullen, Haimovitz wrote:

"There are no strings attached to this offer, and no joker. This will be a gift from Mrs. Haimovitz and myself and I should like to hear soon that your committee has approved it."

FLORIDA

Tallahassee, Fla. Democrat  
July 12, 1942

## Negro Recreation Field Will Be Opened Monday

The opening of Lee Field, negro recreation park, located at Fourth ave and Macomb st will be held Monday. The new park will be under the supervision of C H Bush, negro recreation director.

A full program for the day is planned. An exhibition tennis match between R E Wyer, jr., local county agent and Coach 'Buck' Neilson of the A & M college will be the feature of the day. This match will start at 6 p m. A softball game between the Trojans and the All-Stars will follow.

This playground will be opened daily from 9 a m until 12 noon, and from 6 p m until 8 p m.

The softball schedule for the remainder of the week follows: Tuesday, 5th Aviation vs NYA; Wednesday, Power Lines vs Slue Giants; Thursday, girls' day; Friday, Trojans vs Slue Giants.

Birmingham, Ala. Age-Herald  
July 17, 1942

## HEARING ON PARK INJUNCTION SET

Hearing on a motion to dissolve a temporary injunction restraining the operation of Yarbrough Park, a Negro amusement park north of Lewisburg, is set for 10 a.m. Friday before Judge J. Russell McElroy in Circuit Court.

The temporary injunction was granted last week on a petition filed in the name of the State of Alabama by Solicitor R. E. McAdory, which alleged that the operation of the park in a white community is a nuisance. It was directed at E. O. Tillman, owner of the land, Delaware Williams, J. B. Welch and Willie Kidd, who it was alleged lease the land and operate the park.

Memphis, Tenn. Commercial Appeal  
July 26, 1942

## Negroes' Playground Is Planned By Board

Purchase by the City Board of Education of a tract of land approximately 300 feet square just to the south of Leath School for negroes at 427 Linden was announced by W. J. Prescott, president of the board. The land is to be converted into a school playground for the negro children.



50-1942

Tampa, Fla. Tribune

May 8, 1942

## New Playgrounds

Appropriations for two new city playgrounds are included in the tentative budget drawn up by Mayor Chancey. One playground is proposed for negro children adjacent to Meacham school, and the other would be developed on the old Kate Jackson property at Rome and Morrison avenues.

We heartily approve this action. We've long advocated the increased development of playgrounds throughout all sections of the city. Certainly these two would go far towards providing recreational facilities in two areas which have been sadly neglected in the city's playground program up to the present.

Playground and park areas are excellent investments for health of our future citizens and they are strong protection against juvenile delinquency. By all means, these playground appropriations must be kept in the budget when it is finally approved by the Board of Representatives.

Tampa, Fla. Tribune

May 14, 1942

## City Will Develop New Play Areas To Replace Plant Field

While the city recreation department revised its sports schedules yesterday to get along without Plant field, turned over to the army by the Florida fair and board of aldermen Tuesday, Mayor Chancey added \$2500 to the city play budget to develop new areas elsewhere.

He said the money would be spent on a new playground south of Swann avenue and west of the Atlantic Coast Line railroad, a small area in Drew park, an area near Woodlawn cemetery, an area in West Seminole Heights, a Negro play area near Meacham school, and to put a baseball diamond in the Negro playground at Buffalo and 22nd street.

These developments will cost considerably more than the \$2500 added to the budget, the mayor said, but some of the money already was in the budget and some will come from a saving of the cost of carrying on recreation activities in Plant park.

"With the new proposed areas, and those already in use, we think we can still carry on a broad community program," the mayor said.

FLORIDA

Tampa, Fla. Tribune

June 4, 1942

## CITY OFFERED SITE FOR NEGRO PLAYGROUND

### But Alligators Still Doze in Pond

Mayor Chancey said yesterday he had an offer for a site for a Negro playground, free of cost, but Superintendent Higgins of the recreation department, said he hoped it would not be considered—at least not until someone gets the alligators out of it.

The offer was made through one of the aldermen during discussion of a Negro park budget. Mayor Chancey put \$10,000 in the budget to buy a park site near the Meacham school on India street, but already there is talk of scratching it.

Higgins was sent out to inspect the free site, which is somewhere near Buffalo and 26th. He said he was greeted by one sleepy alligator about four feet long in a hyacinth pond.

#### Needs To Be Filled

"The site will be all right after it is filled," said Higgins, "and I recommend that the city accept it with thanks, but not put any little Negro children in there right away."

Every year in the last 10 or 20 years Tampa has talked about providing a playground and swimming pool for Negroes, but it got beyond the talking stage only once. Once a site was voted, but the board later gave it to a lodge.

"Tampa has made a lot of progress in providing recreation areas in the last few years," Higgins said, "but has not yet provided one square foot of playground for all the Negro children in the city, who need it as much as children can need anything, and I don't think it is fair. I had hoped we would make a start this year."



September, 14, 1942



N. A. DANIEL AT DANIEL'S PARK

## Tiny Park Named for Negro Who Loves to Plant Flowers

The City of Macon has joined the Kiwanis Club in honoring a congenial, dignified, and elderly Negro leader by naming a park for N. A. Daniel, head waiter at Hotel Dempsey for a quarter of a century.

Eight years ago Daniel began beautifying the triangular plot at the intersections of old Washington, First, and Martha streets in East Macon. The land belonged to the city, but it was in front of Daniel's home.

council to name the beautified plot of land Daniel Park. Now the Kiwanis Club plans to place a marker on the park.

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**THIS IS** the second time Daniel has seen the city name something for him. A few years ago there was much confusion over old Washington street at this intersection, since there is another Washington street. So the city decided to change the name of this street at the triangle to Daniel street.

**THE ELDERLY** Negro planted roses, gardenias, crepe myrtles, oleanders, and other flowers over the period of years.

Members of the Kiwanis Club, which he serves at the weekly luncheons at Hotel Dempsey, learned of his hobby in beautification.

President Sam Orr asked city



Winston Salem N. C. Sentinel  
January 16, 1942

## Plans Ready For Opening Negro Parks

Plans were completed today for the opening of Winston-Salem's \$75,000 group of three Negro parks to be officially dedicated at 2 p.m. Saturday.

Greatly expanding recreational facilities for the city's Negro population, the parks have just been completed by means of a large locally-sponsored WPA project.

A sponsor's contribution of \$22,000 from James A. Gray and \$1,500 and a tract of land from A. L. Butner made possible their construction.

Gray will be the principal speaker Saturday on a program which will include addresses by State WPA Administrator C. C. McGinnis, Butner and Mayor R. J. Reynolds.

The program will be held at Kimberley Park but will be broadcast over WAIR and will be carried by radio to the assembled visitors at the other two parks.

Immediately after the ceremonies, the official party will go from Kimberley to Happy Hill Park and then to Fourteenth Street Park.

On the program are Rev. Thomas Kilgore and Rev. R. A. Pitts, prominent Negro ministers, and the Acme Quartet, which will give musical numbers.

The three Negro parks represent planning and construction for the past year and a half since the contribution from Gray launched efforts to secure a WPA project for such work.

The old Kimberley Park area was deemed too small for adequate development and Butner donated a large tract of land nearby, along with the additional contribution.

At Kimberley, a community center building, an amphitheatre, pavilions, outdoor ovens and picnic tables, two bowling alleys, a concrete roller skating rink, horse-shoe courts and children's playgrounds have been built.

At Happy Hill, all of these facilities have been provided (except for the amphitheatre which could only be built at Kimberley) and two tennis courts are included.

At Fourteenth Street Park, the same facilities are provided and improvements have been made to the swimming pool.

All of the park areas are completely equipped with drinking fountains, running water piped to the ovens and picnic areas, electric lights, rest rooms and other conveniences. Construction of tennis courts at Fourteenth street and Kimberley were not necessary because there were already courts adjacent to those areas.



## City, State Leaders Participate

# Winston-Salem's New Negro Community Centers Opened

Three new parks which mark Winston-Salem's most important civic step in providing Negro recreational facilities were opened today in joint dedication ceremonies at 2 p. m.

James A. Gray, whose sponsor contribution of \$22,000 made it possible to build the parks, was the principal speaker on a program held at Kimberly Park and broadcast by radio to the other two centers.

North Carolina WPA Administrator C. C. McGinnis presented the group of parks to the city and his speech was followed by the formal acceptance by Richard J. Reynolds.

A. L. Butner, whose gift of \$1,500 and several square blocks of land in the northern part of town lent an important impetus, particularly to the Kimberley Park area, also took part in the program.

Crowds which attended the opening at each of the three parks gave evidence of the importance with which the new recreational facilities are viewed by the Negro population of the city.

The availability of recreation areas equal to any parks for white residents adds materially to the excellent civic relationship between white and Negro citizens of Winston-Salem, officials pointed out.

Marked by two community center buildings equipped with assembly halls, pianos, lobbies, libraries, showers and other conveniences, the park areas include playgrounds, picnic areas, pavilions, skating rinks, bowling alleys, tennis courts, outdoor ovens and barbecue pits and even an amphitheatre which it was possible to construct in a valley site at Kimberley.

The parks are strategically located to serve a large number of Negro residents. One is located near the old Kimberley Park site, one on Fourteenth street and one in the Happy Hill section of Waughtown.

Total construction cost was around \$75,000, including the cost of sponsor contributions, WPA grants and additional land.

Durham N. C. Morning Herald  
August 21, 1942

## Colorful Pageant Presented At Hillside Park Swim Pool

### 'America's Children' Produced As Climax To City Recreation Season For Negro Population

Last night at the Hillside Park swimming pool a pageant entitled "America's Children" was executed as a climax to the season's activities of the Negro section of the City Recreation Department.

The combined playground and water pageant was one of the outstanding attractions of the year. It included a band concert, a procession of the royal court, group singing, tap dancing, jitter-bugging, a trombone solo, swimming, diving and life saving.

Queens for the show were Ethel Washington, Louis Shaw, Constance Merrick and Ruth Harvey. Eva McLaurin portrayed the Goddess of Liberty, and Johnny Gilchrist played the part of Uncle Sam.

J. B. McLendon directed the life-saving corps in an exhibition.

The cast of America's Children consisted of Ruth Spaulding, Emma Samuel, Lavenia Wilson, Lizzie Bullock, Johnny Mae Williams, Mattie Perry, Barbara Logan, Margaret Williams, Evelyn Rollins, Elizabeth Ray, Jacqueline Townsend, Beatrice Bynum, Janet Bynum, Olivia Clements, Doris Cameron, Wilhelmenia Cameron, Ruth Gilliam, Andrea Burnette, Freddie Marshall, Carolyn Martin, Barbara Spaulding, Gloria Spaulding, Virginia James, Annie Green, Patricia Spaulding, Delores Williams, Yvonne Miller, Bernice Phillips, Thelma Dooms, Mary Walker, Laura Royster, Jean Royster, Mattie Burton, Doris Williams, Eleanore Lawson and Cynthia Pearson.

The boys were Asa Spaulding, Sammy Walker, Thomas Walker, George Jones, Carl Jones, Jerry Schooler Jr., Ronald Schooler, Bobby Alston, Bernard Tate, Parham Shaw, Alexander Walker, Carl Willis, Sammy Thomas, Alexander Walker and Benjamin Harrison.



## Club Seeks Playground for Negro Children



Journal Photo by Randolph Bradford.

Meeting with the Brower's club, a negro literary club interested in the improvement of recreational facilities for negro children of Spartanburg, Charles Holland and S. S. Wallace, Jr., discussed the possibilities of obtaining playgrounds and parks for the negroes. Speaking in behalf of the city council, Mr. Holland said that they would give the youth movement as much cooperation as was possible in obtaining their much-needed playground. Plans were made for an immediate campaign to raise the money to finance the venture and although no definite step was taken officers of the club expressed much satisfaction in the effect of the visit by the two civic leaders. Pictured is the group as it met at the negro USO center last night. Mr. Holland and Mr. Wallace are seated opposite the president of the club, M. B. Blackmon at the table; back, standing, A. J. Jones, F. A. Nichols, D. G. Curaton, P. P. Worthy, Ed Graham, Royal Sims and J. W. Coleman; seated, Margaret Reid, Lucille Platt, Talmadge Chestnut, G. W. Curaton, P. A. Shelton, A. Y. Woodward, W. M. Porter, Eunice Thompson and Helen Garner.

Spartanburg S. C. Herald  
July 26, 1942

## NEGRO CHILDREN PLAYGROUND FUND IS TO BE RAISED

Mass Meeting to Be Held  
Monday at 8:30 P. M. at

### Macedonia Church

Plans for the immediate launching of a campaign to raise \$5,000 for equipping two negro playgrounds in the city will be considered at a mass meeting Monday night at 8:30 o'clock at the Macedonia Baptist church, according to Royal L. Sims, general and finance chairman of the drive.

The two playgrounds are the Evins street community center on Evins street and the playground at the corner of Duncan and Celestial streets.

Swings and all other types of equipment will be purchased for these two playgrounds from funds raised in the campaign. One swing has already been erected from \$40

raised previously.

The mass meeting Monday night will be the second held in connection with this campaign. Active solicitation of business firms and residents of the city for the needed funds will begin on Tuesday following the meeting, Sims stated yesterday.

Guests for the meeting Monday night will include: City Commissioners Charles Holland, Maury Pearson, Tom Q. McGee of the Aug. Smith company, S. S. Wallace of the Herald-Journal company, Walter G. Jackson of the Coca Cola Bottling company, T. K. Hudgens of the Spartanburg laundry.

Also, Harry L. White of Band and White, the Rev. Charles Shealy, the Rev. J. D. Henderson, A. M. Alexander of Alexander Music store,

Charles Hammond of Hammond-Brown-Jennings company, C. O. Hearon, secretary of the chamber of commerce, Dr. E. M. Gwathmey of Converse college, Lt. Joseph Hines, Mrs. J. W. Cudd, Miss Barta Ellison of the Brush Street community center.

Also, J. W. Woodward, M. S. Callahan, W. C. Abrams and Father Jackson.

Spartanburg S. C. Journal  
July 27, 1942

## Meeting Tonight On Playground Drive for Negroes

Plans for the immediate launching of a campaign to raise \$5,000 for equipping two negro playgrounds in the city will be considered at a mass meeting tonight at 8:30 o'clock at the Macedonia Baptist church.

The two playgrounds are the Evins street community center on Evins street and the playground at the corner of Duncan and Celestial streets.

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50-1942

KNOXVILLE TENN. JOURNAL  
January 31, 1942

# County Gets Protests To Negro Park

## Proposed Recreation Center In Beaman Lake Area Opposed

Several protests have been made to the County Planning Commission by residents of Holston and Chilhowee Hills against the reported conversion of the Beaman's Lake area into a Negro recreation center, it was learned Thursday.

Recently this site was discussed as a city dump. Later it was reported the spot would be converted into a recreation park for Negroes.

"We are considering the Negro people and realize their need for recreational facilities," W. C. McCammon Jr., commission secretary, declared yesterday, "but we do not believe the Beaman's Lake area is suitable."

He revealed the Planning Commission and the recreational unit of the TVA are studying plans to establish a Negro park on Fort Loudoun Lake. No definite site has been selected, he said.

"If there is a park for white people on the lake there will be one for Negroes," McCammon asserted.

"The site will be easily accessible to Negroes of Knoxville and will not interfere with any established community," he explained. He added he hoped the park would be county operated.

Beaman's Lake is just outside the city limits in the Second District between McDonald Road and Gravelly Ridge. The area is zoned for an agricultural district.

McCammon said he told those who asked him about the situation that the commission could not forbid the building of the park but they could prevent commercialization.

"We want parks in the county," he said, "but do not desire commercialization which would decrease the value of adjacent property."

McCammon added that all persons who inquired about the park agreed the Negroes should have

adequate recreational facilities.

Build Better Manhood—Begin in Boyhood  
**Commercial Appeal**  
Memphis, Tennessee

## DEDICATION OF PARK FOR NEGROES JUNE 14

Program Announced For  
Shelby Bluffs Opening

### 1000-ACRE STATE PROJECT

Poe, Hay And Gailor To Speak  
—Rev. T. O. Fuller To Pre-  
side, Dr. Walker To Give  
Acceptance Talk

Dedication of the 1000-acre Shelby Bluffs State Park, started with a donation of land by the Shelby County Commission, will be held at 3 o'clock the afternoon of June 14 at the park grounds, three miles west of Highway 61, on Mitchell Avenue.

Believed to be the first state park dedicated exclusively to negroes east of the Mississippi River, it has been constructed and beautified by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the past three years.

#### Dedication Speakers

Conservation Commissioner J. Charles Poe and William M. Hay, state park director, will represent Governor Cooper at the exercises, while County Attorney Frank Gailor will speak on behalf of Shelby County, E. W. Hale, County Commission chairman, said. Rev. T. O. Fuller, negro minister, will preside and Dr. J. E. Walker, negro physician, will give the acceptance talk.

Mr. Hale said J. A. Beauchamp, negro scoutmaster, will be in charge of traffic. The Booker T. Washington High Band, Drum and Bugle Corps and Chorus will provide entertainment.

#### Land Given By County

The new park, nine miles south of downtown Memphis, was made possible by a donation of land by the county. It was deeded to the state, and CCC workers have in-lined, parking lots, two shelters and a concession stand, 15 barbecue pits, tennis and badminton, volleyball and basketball courts and horseshoe pitching grounds.

Members of the negro committee assisting with the dedication exercises are: Dr. Walker, Rev. Fuller, M. W. Bonner, W. Alonza Locke,

Prof. B. T. Hunt, Dr. L. G. Patterson, Prof. R. J. Roddy, Rev. J. L. Campbell, Prof. George W. Henderson, J. A. Beauchamp, Prof. J. W. Falls and Dr. E. W. Irving.

Nashville, Tenn. Banner  
June 2, 1942

## Testing Station Employees Switch OK'd by Board

The Board of Public Works today validated the removal of six employees from the Automobile Testing Station by unanimously adopting a resolution making the transfer of five employees to former jobs effective and discharging one temporary employee.

One of the men transferred, James Dodd, was only transferred to the Testing Station from the Street Cleaning Department on April 7. Three others, G. L. Sykes, J. D. Coggins, and Gilbert Davis, were sent back to the Department of Streets, Sewers and Sidewalks. Miss Margaret Glenn was returned to the Health Department, and the services of Miss Louise Noan, temporary clerk, were dispensed with.

When the arrangement was made of transferring employees from other departments to the Testing Station instead of following the prescribed Civil Service regulation, Mayor Thomas L. Cummings gave as an excuse that the employees transferred were not needed in the departments which they were leaving.

The board also authorized the employment of 26 attendants for Negro playgrounds at a salary of \$15 each per week and hired three painters as temporary employees of the Street Cleaning Department for work on the Galloway Hospital building being renovated for the Health Department.

The board also authorized the Street Cleaning Department to build an eight-inch sanitary sewer at the Municipal Airport to connect with a sewer already built by the Government. Mayor Cummings was also authorized to execute an agreement between the City and the State Highway Department covering the care and maintenance of Lafayette Street when and if that project is completed.

Chattanooga, Tenn. Times  
June 15, 1942

### Negro Park Dedicated

MEMPHIS, June 14 (AP).—Shelby Bluffs state park, which Tennessee Parks Director W. M. Hay said he understood was the first state park east of the Mississippi river exclusively for Negroes, was

## TENNESSEE

dedicated today.

Hay said in a dedication address that the 1,000-acre park was a monument to democracy, standing for "those things we enjoy under such a government, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Memphis, Tenn. Commercial Appeal  
June 15, 1942

## OFFICIALS DEDICATE SHELBY BLUFFS PARK

More Improvements Promised  
After Victory Is Won

### 1500 ATTEND CEREMONY

Presentation And Acceptance  
Speeches Take On Political  
Hue—Negro Leader Pledges  
Backing For Administration

By RANDOLPH TUCKER

Hailed as the first state park east of the Mississippi dedicated exclusively for negroes, Shelby Bluffs State Park was presented to the negro population yesterday afternoon by state and county officials.

W. M. Hay, director of state parks, told the crowd of some 1500 gathered for the presentation that the war had interrupted full development of the 1000-acre site bordering the Mississippi, but that a swimming pool, a huge lodge building and camping facilities would be built after victory.

#### Politics Enter Speeches

Formal acceptance and presentation speeches took on a political hue

In making the presentation on behalf of the county, County Attorney Frank H. Gailor, a candidate for a circuit judgeship, said, "The activating forces in this state are the political leaders of Memphis and Shelby County who are directing the affairs of Tennessee."

"The Honorable E. H. Crump, Commissioner E. W. Hale and the political leaders envisioned this playground for you," Mr. Gailor continued. He cited the schools and parks developed in the city for negroes, along with the county's low tax rate.

#### 'Supreme Confidence'

"The supreme contribution of the colored people is to continue to show to these leaders supreme confidence in their leadership and future guidance," he added, before going into the remainder of his address.

(After having read The Commercial Appeal last night Mr. Gailor said he had been misquoted. He said the words he used and the thought he conveyed were: "The activating forces in your government are the political leaders. To that part of your government which is the State of Tennessee, you owe Gov. Prentice Cooper, and to that part of your government which is the county of Shelby, you owe the Hon. E. H. Crump and Commissioner E. W. Hale.")

J. E. Walker, president of the National Negro Business League, in accepting the park for his people, replied: "We have shown our appreciation and on the occasion of the last election it was my privilege to work under the direction of Commissioner Hale and I'm happy to say that 95 per cent of the negro vote was delivered to the ticket."

#### Chorus and Band Help

The program was interspersed with musical presentations by the Booker T. Washington Chorus and the band. The flag raising was done by a troop of negro Boy Scouts.

Mr. Hay cited the history of the national conservation program, the state conservation and park program and then related the background of Shelby Bluffs' development. Commissioner Hale first sponsored the park in 1938 and 500 acres were donated. When Indian mounds were discovered, the additional 500 taking in the mounds were purchased by the state.

He said that it was the first state park for negroes in the country and that the park itself is a monument to democracy.

"A monument in that it stands for those things we enjoy under such a Government—life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," he added.

Mr. Gailor compared the peaceful scene to war-torn Europe and advised the negroes to use the park "wisely, and carefully—thinking of the boon that it really is in these days of strife and tribulation."

M. W. Bonner, chairman of the Acceptance Committee, made the opening remarks and Dr. T. O. Fuller presided.

Half of the acreage for the park was contributed by Shelby County under County Commissioner E. W. Hale and the other 500 acres were purchased by the state. Present roads, playground areas, water facilities and pavilions were constructed by the state and CCC workers.

Chattanooga, Tenn. Daily Times  
June 16, 1942

### Negro Park Dedicated

MEMPHIS, June 15 (AP). — A 1,000-acre state park for Negroes, bordering the Mississippi river, was dedicated here today by

state and county officials. W. M. Hay, director of state parks, said Shelby Bluffs State park is the first state park east of the Mississippi dedicated exclusively for Negroes. War interrupted full development of the site, he told some 1,500 listeners, but work will be completed after the war is over.



June 9, 1942

## Board Hires 22 for Negro Playgrounds

The Board of Public Works today hired 22 additional attendants for Negro playgrounds in the city and 40 attendants for white playgrounds, at a salary of \$15 each per week.

The total so far employed for Negro playgrounds is now 48. The board also hired J. Leo Long as assistant to the playground director at a salary of \$25 per week.

The total payroll for temporary playground workers so far hired by the board now stands at more than \$1,320 a week or in excess of \$5,000 a month.

The board authorized the purchase of two aerial trucks for the fire department from Peter Firsch & Sons Co. One of the trucks with an 85-foot ladder was bought on a bid of \$19,493.85. The other truck with a 65-foot ladder was bought on a bid of \$18,865.

Bids for the construction of a water main at the United Air Corps Classification Center on Thompson Lane were submitted by W. L. Hailey and Company and Bolg Construction Company. The bids were referred to W. L. Lawrence, Jr., superintendent and chief engineer of the Waterworks Department.

The board authorized the lease of the old Carter-Lawrence Negro school on South Street to the South Street Center Committee for a rental of \$1 a year. The building will be used as a community center and the committee has agreed to employ a full-time director for activities.

Continuing its usual practice of hiring additional temporary employees, the board hired nine laborers and one truck driver and authorized the Civil Service Board to certify names of applicants to fill 11 laborer vacancies in the Department of Sprinkling and Sanitation, and two vacancies for Negro laborers to handle garbage trucks in the same department.

## Commercial Appeal Memphis, Tennessee NEGROES' PLAYGROUND IS PLANNED BY BOARD

### City Education Heads Purchase Land Near School

Purchase by the City Board of Education of a block of property immediately south of the Leath School for negroes at 427 Linden was announced yesterday by W. J. Prescott, president of the board.

Approximately 300 feet square, the property will be converted into a school playground, Mr. Prescott said. The additional ground was made necessary because of an enrolment of 1044 negro children last year, and present indications of an even greater student body in September, he explained.

Leath School was converted from a white to a negro school in 1940.

Last year the Board of Education purchased the old Carnes home at Linden and Wellington, a landmark in that section of town for many years, with the intention of constructing a playground there. The Carnes property was later sold to the City of Memphis for use as a negro clinic.

The present purchase was made south of Leath School instead of east toward the Carnes property—in order to leave room for the expansion of the clinic grounds, Mr. Prescott said.

August 2, 1942

## War Postpones Work On Other State Parks

Because of the war and lack of materials the State Park construction program has come to a standstill for the duration. The last CCC Camp that has been operating through the guidance of the National Park Service is leaving Harrison Bay State Park the middle of this month. This suspends the construction program that came into full swing in 1939. Last year there were six CCC camps in operation in the park areas.

Parks left incomplete are Harrison Bay and Booker T. Washington Negro Park, Hamilton County; Watauga Park, Sullivan County; and Shelby Negro and the Archaeological Park in Shelby County. Harrison Bay will have limited facilities for the first time this summer. This will include boat dock and boating, bath house and swimming, picnicking facilities and play field. Shelby Negro and Booker T. Washington will also offer limited facilities this summer.



## A DREAM COME TRUE—

"THE IDEALITY"

We adopt and quote with approval an editorial which appeared in the Negro Freeholder, a paper put out by the Clinton Park Addition, entitled "Broad-Minded Idealism." The editorial tells how the Clinton Park group made dreams come true for many families in the low income bracket. They are provided decent homes, ample living space, and all of the amusements and conveniences necessary for proper living. But read the editorial yourself:

Clinton Park, the largest community of its kind in the United States, is nearing completion. The project was conceived in the mind of a practical financier and broadminded, idealist, and having passed successfully through all the doubtful processes of experimentation, today stands out in bold relief as an enduring example of what sound business plus a proper consideration of the circumstances and conditions conducive to a higher standard of living and a more beautiful social and moral environment can and right should accomplish.

When the work is finally done, Clinton Park will be far more than just a subdivision of dwelling houses. It will be a self-sufficient community of over five-hundred better homes, each provided with all the modern utilities and accommodations indispensable to clean, wholesome living. It will be, by way of comparison, as far removed from the quagmire of overcrowded quarters and tenement houses as are the sun-swept mass of the wide open spaces from the murky cesspools of the marshy swamp lands.

Just how has broad-minded idealism been worked into the financial formula of this residential community? Well, let us examine some of the distinguishing features which, singly or in their totality, lend to this community those advantages and conditions so favorable to the improvement of the mind and body and to the development of a sense of personal pride and of civic spirit:

(1). Every house in Clinton Park is situated on a lot not less than 55x120 feet and separated one from the other by not less than twenty feet; Houston, Tex.

(2). There is a network of approximately five miles of 18-foot paved streets with sufficient curvature to break the monotony of the plat, thereby adding to the attractiveness of the community;

(3). An adequate sanitary disposal system and drainage insures the rapid flow of heavy rains;

(4). A forty-acre park with a nine-hole golf course, a picnic ground, and children's playground, and a baseball diamond, all for the exclusive enjoyment of the 500 and more families and their visiting guests;

(5). A grammar and a junior high school adjacent to the park, each of which has its own recreation and social center;

(6). A transportation system for the exclusive use of the community; and

(7). A commercial center composed of: (a) an ultra-modern food market and service station, (b) a medical clinic and drug store,

(c) a motion picture and a theatre house, (d) a community civic club (e) a beauty salon and a barber shop, and (f) a restaurant, all under Negro management.

## Negro Labor News

Houston, Texas

## NEGRO ATTENDANTS TO BE USED AT NEW STADIUM.

NEW YORK—"Federal action is imperative," to redress the beating of Baptist ministers Dr. J. C. Jackson, 76, Hartford, Conn.; president of the New England Baptist Conference and Reverend S. A. Young, Washington, D. C., on September 8, the NAACP told President Roosevelt. The NAACP has offered legal assistance to the ministers.

The Houston Negro Chamber of Commerce announced this week that the Athletic Committee of the Chamber was assured by the Athletic Council of the Public Schools that Negroes would be used at all games between Negro teams at the new Buffalo Stadium. SEP 19 1942

Positions in which they would be used included ticket sellers, ticket takers, announcers for the games, vendors, a colored ambulance and other important places.

The weekly newspapers of the city have consistently fought for this concession for the past years.

All service men will be admitted free if they are in uniform, it was also announced by the committee.

The advisability of setting up a reserved seat section for Negroes was discussed but no conclusion was arrived at by the committees. These seats would be near the sidelines.

Rev. J. D. Moore, chairman of the Chamber Athletic Committee. L. H. Spivey and O. K. Manning are the other members. SEP 19 1942

James H. Law, Yates instructor, and veteran local official, will handle the play-by-play announcement of the games over the public address system.